

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A banjo having a pick-up system comprising:
a banjo having a head, and
a pick-up system, at least a portion of which extends through the head.
2. The banjo according to claim 1, wherein the head has at least one hole for receiving a portion of the pick-up system.
3. The banjo according to claim 2, wherein the head has a plurality of holes, and wherein the pick-up system has a plurality of metallic heads, each metallic head of the pick-up system being positioned in one of the holes in the head of the banjo.
4. The banjo according to claim 2, further comprising a reinforcement layer disposed about the at least one holes.
5. The banjo according to claim 1, wherein the banjo

comprises stabilizer bars, and wherein the pick-up system is mounted on the stabilizer bars.

6. The banjo according to claim 1, wherein the banjo head is mounted on a body, and further comprising a lead wire extending from the pick-up system to the exterior of the banjo body.

7. The banjo according to claim 1, wherein the pick-up system comprises adjustable heads.

8. A method for forming a banjo with a pick-up system, the method comprising;
selecting a banjo having a head mounted on a body;
forming at least one hole in the banjo head; and
disposing a pick-up system in the banjo body.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the method comprises disposing a pick-up system with at least one head so that the at least one head of the pick-up system extends into the at least one hole in the head of the banjo.

10. The method according to claim 8, wherein the pick-up system has five metallic heads, and wherein the method comprises forming five holes in the head of the banjo.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the method further comprises positioning the metallic heads of the pick-up system to extend through the holes in the head of the banjo.

12. The method according to claim 8, wherein the method comprises reinforcing the head of the banjo about the at least one hole.

13. The method according to claim 8, wherein the banjo body has at least one stabilizer bar and wherein the method further comprises mounting the pick-up system on the at least one stabilizer bar.

14. The method according to claim 8, wherein the method further comprises extending a lead wire from the

pick-up system to a connector on the outside of the body of the banjo.

15. The method according to claim 8, wherein the method comprises using a humbucking electromagnetic pick-up.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the humbucking electromagnetic pick-up can be switched to and/or installed with a unidirectional single coil electromagnetic pick-up.

17. A banjo head comprising:
a generally planer portion for positioning between strings and a body of a banjo, wherein at least one hole is formed in the generally planer portion.

18. The banjo head according to claim 17, wherein the at least one hole comprises a plurality of holes positioned adjacent one another.

19. The banjo head according to claim 17, further

comprising a reinforcement layer disposed about the at least one hole.

20. The banjo head according to claim 17, wherein the at least one hole is sufficiently large to receive at least one metallic head from a pick-up system.

21. The banjo of claim 1, further comprising a preamplifier.

22. The banjo of claim 1, further comprising a second pick-up system.

23. A banjo pick-up system comprising:

a pick-up;

a mounting plate configured to attach to the tension bar of a banjo; and

an adjustment mechanism configured to allow adjustment of the position of the pick-up relative to the head of the banjo.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the pick-up

comprises a humbucker type pick-up.

25. The system of claim 23, wherein the adjustment mechanism comprises at least one bolt and at least one nut and wherein rotation of the at least one nut or the at least one bolt moves the pick-up relative to the mounting plate.

26. The system of claim 25, further comprising at least one spring to inhibit movement of the pick-up relative to the mounting plate.

27. The system of claim 23, wherein the mounting plate further comprises a clamping plate and wherein the tension bar is positioned between the mounting plate and the clamping plate.

28. The system of claim 27, further comprising at least one bolt to bias the clamping plate towards the mounting plate.

29. The system of claim 27, further comprising at

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least one resilient pad attached to the mounting plate or the clamping plate.

30. The system of claim 23, further comprising a preamplifier configured to adjust at least one of the group consisting of the volume, the tone, and the balance of the pick-up.

31. The system of claim 23, wherein the pick-up is mounted inside of the banjo.

32. The system of claim 23, further comprising a second pick-up.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein the preamplifier allows for independent adjustment of at least one of the group consisting of the volume, balance, and tone of the pick-ups.

34. A banjo preamplifier comprising:
a signal amplification circuit; and
a volume control;

35. The preamplifier of claim 34, wherein the preamplifier is mounted in a box and wherein at least one side of the box is curved to fit the curve of a banjo body.

36. The preamplifier of claim 34, wherein the preamplifier is mounted to the banjo.

37. The preamplifier of claim 34, further comprising tone control.

38. The preamplifier of claim 34, wherein the preamplifier is configured to accept the signal from multiple pick-ups.

39. The preamplifier of claim 38, wherein the preamplifier allows adjustment of the signal strength of the individual pick-ups, relative to the other pick-ups.

40. The preamplifier of claim 38, wherein the preamplifier allows adjustment of the tone of the individual pick-ups, relative to the other pick-ups.

41. The preamplifier of claim 36, wherein the preamplifier further comprises clips configured to attach to the banjo.

42. The preamplifier of claim 36, wherein the preamplifier further comprises a resilient member to attach the preamplifier to the banjo.

43. A banjo comprising:

a head with a pick-up system disposed therein, the pickup system having at least four poles.